



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/909,023	08/11/1997	TOSHIAKI KOJIMA	SONY-P7698	1127

29175 7590 02/10/2005

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2616

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/909,023

Applicant(s)

KOJIMA, TOSHIAKI

Examiner

Christopher O. Onuaku

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-21 & 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gushima et al (US 5,737,481) in view of Baumeister (US 4,591,931).

Regarding claim 1, Gushima et al disclose an information recording method, an information recording apparatus, and an information recording medium which are suitable for recording information to be continuously input such image or sound, comprising:

a) recording means for recording a first data set in a recording medium (see Fig. 1 & 8, and buffer memory 4 ; col. 16, lines 21-43);

b) input means for designating a start point and an end point of a desired second continuous data set, where the second continuous data set is a subset of the first data set to be recorded in or already recorded in the recording medium by the recording

Art Unit: 2616

means (see Fig.8&10, and controller 53; col.31, lines 29-46), here the recorded data in buffer memory 4 constitute the first data set; this first data set is split into odd numbered blocks and even numbered blocks, and the odd-numbered blocks make up the claimed second data set; the controller 53 generates a write address into the memory 4, thereby writing the coded data 15 and the block identification data 58 into the buffer memory 4 by disposing as shown in Fig.10; when a normal recording is performed, the coded data 15 output from the coder 52 together with the block identification data is stored in a predetermined area in the buffer memory 4;

c) control means for controlling the recording means so as to endlessly-record and overwrite a non-designated portion of the first data in the recording medium which excludes the designated second continuous data set, such that the recording means endlessly records data in the recording medium in a recording region that avoids the recording region in which the second data has been recorded (see Fig.8&10, controller 53 and col.31, lines 47-65), here only data recorded on even-numbered areas are overwritten, during a selective overwrite process, wherein data is endlessly recorded in the buffer. Examiner reads endless recording as continuous uninterrupted recording.

Gushima et al fail to explicitly disclose input means for a user to designate a file name corresponding to a start point and an end point of a desired data set.

Baumeister teaches apparatus for playing back from recording media recorded information which includes both preselected segments and unselected segments, comprising wherein a sequence of scenes is designated as a file by an operator and a

Art Unit: 2616

file name is designated to the file, and wherein the beginning and end of the file is identified (see col.2, lines 5-25 and col.5, line 62 to col.6, line 24).

It, therefore, would have been obvious to modify Gushima et al by realizing Gushima et al with the means for a user to designate a file name corresponding to a start point and end point of the file, as taught by Baumeister, in order, for example, to easily identify the file during playback.

Gushima modified with Baumeister, following the discussions above, and using the Baumeister file name designating principle, for example, it would have been obvious for an operator Gushima to designate a file name corresponding to a start point and an end point of a desired data set, including a second continuous data set, wherein the second continuous data set is a subset of the first data set to be recorded in or already recorded in the recording medium by the recording means

Regarding claim 2, Gushima discloses wherein the recording medium is a recording medium capable of non-linear access.(see buffer memory 4 which is a random access memory; col.16, lines 21-29).

Regarding claim 3, Gushima discloses reproducing means for reproducing the "first" data recorded in the recording medium, wherein the start point and end point of the desired "second" data are input by input means from the "first" data reproduced by the reproducing means (see col.31, line 66 to col.32, line 6).

Regarding claim 4, Gushima discloses wherein the reproducing means reproduces the "first" data recorded in the recording medium after a passage of a predetermined period of time in order of recording the "first" data in the recording medium (see col.16, line 39-42).

Regarding claim 5, Gushima discloses wherein the control means, when recording means is controlled so as to "endlessly-record" the data in the recording medium, "endless-records the "first" data in a "first" region of the recording medium, and when the start point and end point of the "second" data are input through the input means, controls the recording means so as to "endlessly-record" the "first" data in the "first region while avoiding a predetermined "second" region of the recording medium(see claim 1 discussions and col.31, lines 29-65).

Regarding claim 6, Gushima, discloses wherein the control means controls the recording means so as to record the "first" data in a "first" region of the recording medium, and controls the recording means so as to generate assisting data for identifying the "first" data and record the assisting data in a "second" region different from the "first" region of the recording medium (see Fig.9B and block identification data 58 which is stored in a portion of the buffer memory 4 than the data itself; col.31, lines 14-46).

Art Unit: 2616

Regarding claim 7/1, the claimed limitations of claim 7/1 are accommodated in the discuss of claim 6 above, including col.31, lines 29-65; col.32, lines 40-62.

Regarding claim 7/3, the claimed limitations of claim 7/3 are accommodated in the discuss of claims 6 above, including col.31, lines 29-65; col.32, lines 40-62.

Regarding claim 9, the claimed limitations of claim 9 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 1,2&3 above.

Regarding claim 10, the claimed limitations of claim 10 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 1&9 above.

Regarding claim 11, the claimed limitations of claim 11 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 4&9 above.

Regarding claim 12, the claimed limitations of claim 12 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 5&9 above.

Art Unit: 2616

Regarding claim 13, the claimed limitations of claim 13 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 6&9 above.

Regarding claim 14, the claimed limitations of claim 14 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 7&9 above.

Regarding claim 16, the claimed limitations of claim 16 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 1&9 above.

Regarding claim 17, the claimed limitations of claim 17 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 18, the claimed limitations of claim 18 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 19, the claimed limitations of claim 19 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 5 above.

Regarding claim 20, the claimed limitations of claim 20 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 21/16, the claimed limitations of claim 21/16 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 7 above.

Regarding claim 21/17, the claimed limitations of claim 21/17 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 7 above.

Regarding claim 23, the claimed limitations of claim 23 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 9 above.

Regarding claim 24, the claimed limitations of claim 24 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 10 above.

Regarding claim 25, the claimed limitations of claim 25 are accommodated in the discussions of claims 10&11 above.

Regarding claim 26, the claimed limitations of claim 26 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 12 above.

Regarding claim 27, the claimed limitations of claim 27 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 13 above.

Regarding claim 28/23, the claimed limitations of claim 28/23 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 14 above.

Regarding claim 28/24, the claimed limitations of claim 28/24 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 14 above.

4. Claims 8,15,22&29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gushima in view of Baumeister and Sasakura and further in view of Shirakawa et al (US 5,949,953).

Regarding claim 8, Gushima and Baumeister fail to disclose wherein the assisting data comprises time code. Sasakura teaches an image signal recording system for recording an image signal on a recording medium wherein time codes are used to identify recorded data (see col.3, line 64 to col.4, line 6). Using time codes to identify recorded data provides a simple means of identifying recorded data.

It would have been obvious to modify Gushima by using time codes as the identifying means for identifying the recorded data (e.g., data blocks) of Gushima, as taught by Sasakura, since using time codes to identify recorded data provides a simple means of identifying recorded data.

As disclosed in claim 1 above, Baumeister teaches the principle of assigning a name to a file to facilitate the reproducing process, for example.

Gushima, Baumeister and Sasakura fail to disclose wherein the assisting data comprises a head address. Shirakawa, et al teach a disk media for recording a digital image and a method of and device for recording and playing back a digital image signal on or from such disk wherein recorded GOP, for example, are assigned header

Art Unit: 2616

addresses to facilitate the location of the GOP in the recording device(-see col.32, lines 26-40, and col.34, line 66 to col.35, line 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify Gushima by assigning header addresses to the recording apparatus of Gushima, as taught by Shirakawa, to facilitate the location of recorded data in the recording device.

Regarding claim 15/13, the claimed limitations of claim 15/13 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 8 above.

Regarding claim 15/14, the claimed limitations of claim 15/14 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 8 above.

Regarding claim 22, the claimed limitations of claim 22 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 8 above.

Regarding claim 29, the claimed limitations of claim 29 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 15 above.

Regarding claim 30, the claimed limitations of claim 30 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 8 above.

Regarding claim 31, the claimed limitations of claim 31 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 30 above.

Regarding claim 32, the claimed limitations of claim 32 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 15 above.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from this examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is (703)

Art Unit: 2616

308-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)


and (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


COO

1/31/05


ANDREW FAILE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600